

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim [[1]] 24 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside and combinations thereof is mixed [[in the mixture in combination]] with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame before it is applied in the rolling compound.

7-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim [[8]] 26 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside, and combinations thereof is mixed [[in the mixture in combination]] with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame in the coating.

12-23. (canceled)

24. (original) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is a part of a rolling compound applied on the chewing gum product.

25. (original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

26. (original) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is a part of a coating on a chewing gum pellet.

27. (original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

28-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

31. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.